

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 10-11 have been cancelled.

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3 and 5-9 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Vaartstra (US Pat. No. 6,159,855) in view of Wang et al. (US Pat. No. 5,871,811) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a); claims 4 and 10-11 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Vaartstra in view of Wang et al. and further in view of Arvidson (US Pat. No. 5,118,485) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejections have been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. More specifically, the features of claims 10 and 11 have been added to claim 1.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

providing the reactor chamber with a further gas outlet opening formed in the reactor wall downstream of the substrate;

providing a connecting line directly connecting the gas outlet opening to one of the inlet openings located upstream of the distributor plate; and

configuring, in the connecting line, a valve for controlling gas flow. (Emphasis added.)

As stated by the Examiner in the beginning of the last paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, Vaartstra in view of Wang et al. fails to teach using a recycle stream to circulate gas from the exit of the chamber to the inlet.

Arvidson teaches the recovery of lower-boiling silanes in a CVD process. However, in Arvidson the reaction products are pumped away from the reactor chamber and are recycled in a number of steps in which their state of matter is changed. In particular, the reaction products are condensed, enriched, distilled, stored in a reservoir and finally fed to a vaporizer to be fed as a gas into the reactor chamber.

In contrast, according to Fig. 2 of the instant application, the reaction products as pumped out of the reactor chamber are fed back into the reactor chamber directly with the connecting line (27) in which only a valve (28) is integrated.

In view of the extensive measures of recycling the reaction products as in Arvidson, a person skilled in the art would not

consider directly connecting the outlet opening with an inlet opening for feeding back the reaction products.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claims 2-9 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well. Claims 10-11 have been cancelled.

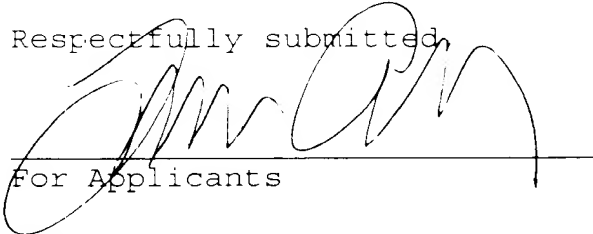
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the

Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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